

**What is claimed is:**

1. Triclosan containing absorbable sutures exhibiting extended antimicrobial activity retention and desirable handling characteristics.
2. Absorbable sutures according to claim 1, by a process comprising coating with a mixture comprising triclosan which is either added into the coating mixture or incorporated into the coating carrier polymers, one or more absorbable carrier polymers with or without triclosan and one or more fatty acid salts or treating non-coated sutures with a solution of triclosan, and coating with a mixture comprising one or more absorbable carrier polymers and one or more fatty acid salts with or without triclosan.
3. Absorbable sutures according to claim 1 by a process comprising incorporating triclosan into the absorbable polymers, spinning, braiding, and coating with a mixture comprising one or more absorbable carrier polymers and one or more fatty acid salts with or without triclosan.